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For Immediate Release  
August 29, 2001

**TWO MORE STOCKTON 'PROJECT EXILE' CASES  
INDICTED IN FEDERAL COURT**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney John K. Vincent announced today that a federal grand jury returned indictments charging GUILLERMO WILLIAM AQUINO, 33, of Stockton, California, and ARTHUR LEE HARRIS, Jr., 26, of Stockton, California, with being felons in possession of ammunition and a firearm, respectively. In AQUINO, the indictment charges that on August 17, 2001, Aquino possessed .380 caliber rounds manufactured by Remington-Peters and CC&I, after he had previously been convicted of possessing a controlled substance for sale, being a felon in possession of a firearm, escape, and infliction of corporal injury on a spouse/cohabitant. If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each count is 10 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine and a three year term of supervised release. There is no parole on a federal sentence.

Harris is charged with possessing a Chinese "Type-56" assault rifle on August 21, 2001, after he had previously been convicted of vehicle theft, second degree robbery, assault with a deadly weapon, and attempted murder in 1997. If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each count is 10 years in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine and a three year term of supervised release.

Both cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James P. Arguelles.

The charges contained in the indictments are only allegations, and the defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

The charges stem from a Project Exile program. The Stockton Police Department; U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms; and the U.S. Attorney's Office are involved in a joint effort to reduce possession of firearms by previously convicted felons by prosecuting more cases in federal court. Whereas an ex-felon with a gun might receive a 1 or 1½ year sentence in state court, in federal court he is more likely to receive a 4 or 5 year sentence. Additionally, in federal court, the person will serve almost the full prison term before being released under supervision for an additional 3 years (in which any violation of the terms of supervision might send him back to prison). It is hoped that Project Exile will have a deterrent effect on persons previously convicted of felony offenses and convince them that the possible downside to illegally possessing a firearm outweighs any perceived temporary benefit.

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